

CLAIMS:

1. A method comprising:
 - a wireless phone, having push-to-talk (PTT) functionality and registered with a PTT server, sending a request for a PTT session to the PTT server, the request including a unique identifier of a destination network computer, accessible on a public data network, having PTT functionality and not registered with a PTT server;
 - the PTT server receiving the request and sending a query for a PTT address for the destination network computer to a directory service accessible on the public data network;
 - the directory service receiving the query and returning the PTT address to the PTT server; and
 - the PTT server receiving the PTT address and sending a request for a PTT session to the destination network computer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the public data network is the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the PTT address is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) address.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the SIP address is a SIP-URI that can be further resolved into an IP address and a port number for receiving PTT sessions at the destination network computer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the directory service issues the unique identifier to the destination network computer.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the unique identifier is a telephone number with a # prefix.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the unique identifier is a fixed or variable length number or name with a # or * prefix.
8. An apparatus comprising:
 - a push-to-talk (PTT) server,
 - containing means for querying a directory service, accessible on a public data network, with a unique identifier to obtain a PTT address for initiating a PTT session with a destination network computer not registered with a PTT server.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for querying includes means for querying a DNS directory service.
10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for querying includes means for receiving the PTT address.
11. The apparatus of claim 8, including means for sending a PTT session request to the destination network computer.
12. The apparatus of claim 8, including means for receiving a PTT session response from the destination network computer.
13. The apparatus of claim 8, including means for accessing a user equipment registered with the PTT server, means for receiving a request for a PTT session with the unique identifier, and means for sending the user equipment a session response.
14. An apparatus comprising:
 - a directory service,

residing on a computer,
accessible on a public data network, and
containing a unique identifier and an associated PTT address of a
network computer having PTT functionality and accessible on the public data
network.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the public data network is the
Internet.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the destination address is a
Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) address.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the SIP address is a SIP-URI that
can be resolved into an IP address and a port number for receiving PTT sessions at
the network computer.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the unique identifier is a number or
name.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the directory service is a domain
name system (DNS) directory service.

20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the directory service stores the
PTT address as a resource record.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the format of the resource record is
one or more of a Naming Authority Pointer (NAPTR), Service (SRV), and A record.

22. A method of establishing a push-to-talk session between an inviting
user and an invited user, the improvement comprising:

when the invited user is not available to accept a push-to-talk session, the user equipment of the invited user signaling the inviting user to record a push-to-talk message.